

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 6273

As Passed Senate, February 12, 2008

Title: An act relating to the nondivisible gross weight limit of farm implements on public highways.

Brief Description: Addressing the nondivisible gross weight limit of farm implements on public highways.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen and Rasmussen).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 1/23/08, 1/24/08 [DPS].

Passed Senate: 2/12/08, 45-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6273 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Marr, Vice Chair; Murray, Vice Chair; Swecker, Ranking Minority Member; Benton, Berkey, Delvin, Eide, Holmquist, Jacobsen, Kastama, Kauffman, Kilmer, King, Pflug, Sheldon and Spanel.

Staff: Dory Nicpon (786-7321)

Background: Current law restricts the length, width, and weight of vehicles that may operate on public highways. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is authorized to issue special permits to vehicles that exceed the length, width, or weight restrictions. DOT may issue annual permits to farm implements with a gross weight less than 45,000 pounds.

Many modern farm implements have a gross weight greater than 45,000 pounds.

Summary of Substitute Bill: The weight restriction for vehicles that may operate on a farm implement special permit is increased to 65,000 pounds. Vehicles operating on a farm implement special permit must comply with the statute that governs the distribution of the vehicle's weight over a specified wheelbase and number of axles.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Recommended Substitute: PRO: This bill will bring more vehicles into compliance. Demands for increased efficiency have caused the size of modern farm implements to increase. This bill will enable farmers to be more efficient in a competitive market.

Persons Testifying: PRO: T.K. Bentler, Northwest Food Processors Association; Bob Whitfield, National Frozen Foods; Jack Field, Washington Cattlemen's Association.